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A. M. CLAPP, EDITOR.

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Largest Legitimate Morning Circulation in the District.

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 28, 1880.

LEST begins one week from to-day.

THERE is "sugar" in the lobby. The "color" of it will in time be discoverable in "refined" tariff legislation.

THE true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers.—U. S. Grant.

Now the exodus tide is to be turned.

Ohio. It is time, perhaps, for Ohio

men to begin to feel the effects of the emigration of many of her citizens to Wash-

ington.

THE Fusion-eers are going to "appeal" to the ballot-box. It was their appeal from the ballot-box and their arbitrary destruc-

tion of it that plunged them into all their trouble.

THE new Governor of Louisiana starts out well in his administration of the affairs of that State by insisting that the State

debt shall be paid in its entirety. It remains to be seen, however, whether he will adhere to this policy until the end of his term.

ALL that General GRANT has said since his election in 1872 about a re-election has been a repetition of the declarations in his letter to General HARRY WHITE, of Penn-

sylvania, in 1870. They were, in effect, that he did not seek a first term, nor a second, and would not seek a third.

If Mr. SEYMOUR should be inveigled into a consent to be the Democratic candidate

next time, he must have forgotten his former venture in that line. Otherwise, he may be counted a very brave man. Then, again, he seems to have forgotten the fate

which has attended FREMONT, GREELEY, and TILDEN, all New Yorkers, like himself. If he desires to try the thing over again we hope that he may be gratified, and he will turn out the same as before.

THE true chivalry of the South will sooner or later come forward to the vindication of General GRANT against the slanders that are now being heaped upon him, because of his prominence as a candidate for the next Presidency. If there is a spark of manhood left in that section, the man who dignified and made grand the Confederate surrender at Appomattox by virtue of his natural magnanimity of character will never need friends in the reconstructed States.

THAT the enemies of General GRANT desire that he shall retire from the opening political canvass there is no doubt. But whether he is to gratify that desire is quite another thing. His opponents are most vociferous that he shall and confident that he will retire at an early day, but thus far in history they have never been known to represent him correctly. He will at the proper time speak for himself. Until then his friends and enemies should cultivate patience.

THE more conservative leaders of the Democratic majority in Congress, who, like Senator GORDON, advised their followers in that body to wear uniforms during the pending session, are rejoiced at the result. Strange to say, and unexpected, our Bonaparte brethren have behaved themselves with amazing discretion up to date. But their good behavior cannot last much longer. When the political appropriation bills come up for consideration General GORDON will be compelled to adopt forcible measures to keep his co-partisans in the traces.

THERE has been an effort in some quarters to give a partisan cast to the investigation of the requirements of the Star postal service. This is unwise. The interests of the people are too great and too directly affected by any injury to or crippling of this important branch of the public service to permit the indulgence of partisan spirit in the examination of the facts concerning it. We have great faith in the fairness and wisdom of the gentlemen conducting the inquiry, and in the ultimate determination of Congress to deal fairly and liberally with the Star service.

AS between BLAINE and BAXANDER, both being nominated by their respective parties upon "acceptable" platforms, the Philadelphia Times declares it would have no choice. "It would then be indifferent," it says, "to the result of such a contest, for either would accomplish all that independent 'journalists' desire." This kind of Utopian twaddle may deceive the marines at the Philadelphia navy-yard, if there are any stationed there, but it will not go down with sensible people who know that independent journalism means unreasoning and persistent opposition to the things that are, and a malicious, snarling advocacy of things that cannot be.

THE Central Club of Greenbackers, of Titusville, Pa., took time by the forelock, as it were, last week, and sent a dispatch to bogus Governor SMITH, of Maine, congratulating him upon the success he had achieved in maintaining his State govern-

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The Washington correspondent of Truth, the new penny paper in New York, quotes Senator CORE's objection to removing the legal-tender quality of the greenbacks because they are a part of the public debt, the validity of which is provided for by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, and wittily remarks that the distinguished Texan "has evidently been reading CORE UPON LITTLETON or CORE'S 'Institutes.'" But seriously speaking, there is an apparent point in the Senator's theory which the Bayardites will do well to look into—that is, if they believe in maintaining intact the spirit and letter of the Constitutional amendments.

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The average American voter is intelligent, impulsive and patriotic, a combination of all the qualities that go to make up the character of a citizen thoroughly jealous of his rights and intent upon protecting his individual sovereignty. To such a man the Third Term, spoke appeared four years ago to be a reality and a tangible, threatening danger to the perpetuity of stable Republican Government. He reasoned that, aside from the question of General GRANT's opportunity to manipulate the public patronage in his own behalf at that time, three consecutive terms for one President would establish a bad precedent, one that might be abused by some less patriotic and less deserving incumbent of that high office. But if he stops to reason now from the same standpoint, he must admit that such an abuse of power by General GRANT is impossible under existing circumstances, and, further, that whatever of manipulation is now going on must be in the administration. This conclusion reached, his jealousy of any misuse of the sovereign rights delegated to the officials of the Government is instantly aroused, and the cry that the "machine" is being operated to shape the progress of partisan affairs serves to provoke the same emotion to "the candidate of the Administration" that he felt against the third-term proposition in 1876. His impulse, then, is to seek a nominee whose power is limited to the attributes of personal popularity and sheer political strength. This search is never fruitless in the Republican ranks, which abound with white rags and dark horses. But, after all that is said or that may be said in the premises, this average voter cannot fail to look upon General GRANT's present attitude with favor, finally to admit that if over a possible candidate he believed that he would be degraded and refused to use the accustomed appliances to force or obtain a nomination, amounted to absolute indifference as to the result, that man is U. S. GRANT. While other aspirants are pull-hauling about the country, making combinations here and there, and adding their friends to the questionable intrigues incident to an auto-convention campaign, General GRANT is philosophically out of politics, as far removed from the turmoil of the schemes, and as free from being compromised by entangling alliances with this or that clique, as though he were the subject of some foreign Power. And it must be further admitted that General GRANT's attitude in this respect is the immediate occasion of the combined assaults of the friends of other candidates upon him. If he were regularly and formally in the field, and were not so clean-handed as he is, it would not be assumed and acknowledged that he is the people's candidate, and there would be no necessity in the interests of anyone to assail him. These considerations, we concede, may not remove the prejudices of hide-bound anti-Third-Termers; but we think they will go far to entice the masses with the idea of accepting him as a candidate on the ground that he is a patriot who does not seek office, but at the same time one who would not shrink its responsibility if the office should seek him.

THE MORMON PROBLEM.

Among the most embarrassing and vexatious questions that engage the attention of the Government and the people at the present time is that which relates to Mormonism in this country. It is an offense to our social system; it is a blot upon our National character, and an evil which commands attention and reformation, and yet it is steadily spreading its noxious infection in the West. Mormonism is polygamy, which is the religion of a sect, and instead of wives, they esteem it a virtue. The Republican party has assumed that people and the distinctive feature of their sect, as it were, last week, and sent a dispatch to bogus Governor SMITH, of Maine, congratulating him upon the success he had achieved in maintaining his State govern-

ment. This was all in the natural fitness of things, for the SMITH government having been "elected" on the Greenback ticket is essentially a flat affair. In flat logic it is as much of a government as that over which Corporal Davis presides. It exists

in the imagination of its adherents and sympathizers, and is completely organized on paper—and that is all that is necessary.

The newspapers are busy just now commenting upon the Cox-Horn contest for the funny-man's belt in the House. The burden of this comment amounts to very severe strictures upon those two gentlemen, and they are widely denounced for having abused and depreciated the gravity or dignity of exalted official position. It is fair to presume that these critics are ignorant of the fact that the House itself is in part responsible for the jesters' antics complained of. As a rule, the members of that body are never so attentive to debates as when fun is expected from them.

The proposition to settle the YOCUM-CURTIS contest in the House by remanding it back to the people of the Twentieth (Pennsylvania) district seems to meet with much favor in that State and the localities most directly interested. It is, perhaps, a good thing to do, under the circumstances, for the reason that the fraud upon both sides is so manifest that neither party can claim a clean bill of health, so to speak. Besides, the precedent will not be a bad one, and in such cases there is nothing more likely to prevent a repetition of fraud and to ascertain the will of the people most concerned in the dispute than to vacate the seat and let them fill it.

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